

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 ACDA-19 OMB-01 MC-02 SSO-00 DRC-01

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R 241955Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2317

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO RUFHOL AMEMB BONN 4507

AMEMB BRUSSELS

AMEMB LONDON

AMEMB OSLO

AMEMB OTTAWA

AMEMB THE HAGUE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

S E C R E T USNATO 5109

E.O.11652: GDS 12-31-81

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION-UK

REF: A. USNATO 4061 NOTAL

B. LONDON 10597 NOTAL

C. USNATO 4989 NOTAL

SUMMARY. DURING OCTOBER 23 DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF UK
FORCE PLANS FOR 1974-78, CHAIRMAN AND OTHERS PRAISED OVERALL UK
DEFENSE PROGRAM BUT CRITICIZED UK'S SLOW START ON AIRCRAFT
SHELTERS. END SUMMARY.

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1. DURING DRC EXAMINATION OF UK FORCE PLANS FOR 1974-78 AS
PRESENTED TO NATO IN UK RESPONSE TO DPQ(73), CHAIRMAN(ASYG
HUMPHREYS) CHARACTERIZED OVERALL UK DEFENSE PROGRAM AS
IMPRESSIVE IN ITS CONTENT AND CONSISTENCY. US (CLINARD) CON-

CURRED, WELCOMED PROGRAMMED IMPROVEMENTS IN ANTI-ARMOR SYSTEMS, AND STRESSED NEED TO IMPLEMENT FULLY PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS. SHAPE REP SAID FORCE PLAN WAS RESPONSIVE TO AD-70.

2. ON DEFENSE SPENDING, CHAIRMAN PRAISED PERCENTAGE OF GNP DEVOTED TO DEFENSE IN 1973 (6) AND PERCENTAGE OF DEFENSE BUDGET DEVOTED TO NEW EQUIPMENT (22). HE QUESTIONED IMPACT OF RECENTLY ANNOUNCED 15 MILLION POUND CUT IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. UK (MACKONALD, DEFENSE COUNSELOR, UKNATO) ASSURED DRC THAT ANNOUNCED CUTS WOULD NOT IMPACT ON UK FORCES ASSIGNED OR EARMARKED TO NATO. US AND NORWEGIAN REPS ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INCREASES IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN REAL TERMS FOR THE PLANNING PERIOD. UK REP WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION BEYOND FY 73/74 PERIOD BUT OFFERED TO SEEK IT FOR INCLUSION IN FINAL CONUNTRY

CHAPTER. UK REP STRESSED THAT THERE WOULD BE A 5 PERCENT REAL TERM INCREASE IN 1973 OVER 1972.

3. ON AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY, CHAIRMAN AND US REP EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER UK DELAY IN BEGINNING CONSTRUCTION OF SHELTERS FOR AIRCRAFT IN FRG.

UK REP REPLIED THAT UK PROGRAM WILL START BEFORE THE END OF 1973 THAT MOST SHELTERS WOULD BE COMPLETED IN 1975 AND THAT ALL WOULD BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1976. CHAIRMAN REFERRED TO LACK OF PROTECTION ON UK BASES. UK REP REPLIED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD NOT YET TAKEN DECISION ON SHELTERS FOR UK BASES AND ARE STUDYING WHETHER THE CRITERIA FOR SHELTERS IN THE UK SHOULD BE THE SAME AS FOR SHELTERS ON THE CONTINENT. CONTINUING, UK REP REPORTED PLANS TO DEPLOY TO THE FRG IN TIMES OF TENSION A CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT FOR RAPID RUNWAY REPAIR. HE SAID SOME EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL FOR SUCH REPAIR ARE BEING PREPOSITIONED.

4. ON WAR RESERVE MUNITIONS, US AND CHAIRMAN QUESTIONED UK USE OF NATIONAL DAYS FOR REPORTING HOLDINGS BUT AGREED THAT DRC SUB-GROUP ON WAR RESERVES WAS PROPER FORUM FOR DEVELOPING STANDARDIZED REPORTING.

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5. ON CANADIAN TRAINING AREAS, NETHERLANDS REP ASKED UK REP FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON ARRANGEMENTS AND COSTS FOR TRAINING UK BATTLE GROUPS. BELGIAN AND NORWEGIAN REPS ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CANADIAN TRAINING AREAS. CANADIAN REP SAID HIS CONTRY "HAD MORE SPACE THAN MONEY" AND OFFERED TO HAVE CANADIAN PARTICIPANTS AT THEIR MULTILATERAL REVIEW PREPARED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFO. FRG REP ANNOUNCED HIS COUNTRY HAD JUST SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH CANADA AND THAT FRG TROOPS WOULD TRAIN IN CANADA NEXT YEAR.

6. ON ADDITIONAL NAVAL FORCES FOR NATO, UK OFFERED TO EARMARK 13 PATROL CRAFT AND SEVERAL SUPPORT SHIPS TO NATO. CINCHAN REP SAID HIS STAFF WAS STUDYING PATROL CRAFT OFFER. ON SUPPORT SHIPS, CHAIRMAN RECALLED NATO POLICY OF LOGISTICS BEING A

NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND REFERRED TO ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE LOGISTICS SHIPS WERE EARMARKED TO NATO.

7. ON RECEPTION FACILITIES FOR REINFORCEMENTS, CHAIRMAN RECALLED HIS REMARKS AT NORWEGIAN MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION (PARA7, REFTEL C) AND ASKED UK REP FOR A STATUS REPORT ON BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. UK REP REPORTED THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE PROCEEDING. CHAIRMAN SAID HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM GREECE AND TURKEY, WHOSE AUTHORITIES SAID THERE WERE NO SUCH DISCUSSIONS GOING ON WITH THE UK. UK REP SAID HE WAS REFERRING TO DISCUSSIONS WITH NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES. CHAIRMAN UNDERScoreD NEED FOR ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECEPTION OF REINFORCEMENTS. COMMENT. THIS TOPIC IS APPARENTLY A PET PROJECT OF HUMPHREYS AND WE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO ASK US REPRESENTATIVES AT MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION FOR A STATUS REPORT ON BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR REINFORCING BOTH NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FLANKS. WE RECOMMEND US REPS BE PREPARED TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE. END COMMENT.

8. AS WASHINGTON IS AWARE, WE WERE WITHOUT REQUESTED GUIDANCE FOR UK AND FRG (SEPTTEL) MULTILATERAL EXAMINATIONS. NEXT MULTILATERALS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 25 (LUXEMBOURG, PORTUGAL, AND ICELAND) AND OCTOBER 26 (ITALY). TIMELY GUIDANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
RUMSFELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO05109
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS 12-31-81
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731064/abqcecvlg.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. USNATO 4061 NOTAL B. LONDON 10597 NOTAL C. USNATO 4989 NOTAL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by willialc>; WITHDRAWN <02-Aug-2001 by willialc, REFER TO DOD>; RELEASED <21-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <21-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION-UK
TAGS: MCAP, NATO, UK
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO RUFHOL AMEMB BONN
AMEMB BRUSSELS
AMEMB LONDON
AMEMB OSLO
AMEMB OTTAWA

AMEMB THE HAGUE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005